

nucleus was pretty sharply defined and formed the centre of a small sector of light, which faded away gradually. The sketch was taken at 11^h M.T.

On the 16th July the Comet was so near the horizon, that faint details could not be seen. The drawing was made at 10^h 20^m M.T. The two tails were seen again, but now streaming out directly from the nucleus. The preceding one could be traced out to the periphery of the parabolic coma, while the following one was shorter and faded away following.



June 20.

July 13.

July 16.

COGGIA'S COMET (III. 1874).

As seen with the 11-in. Refractor at Copenhagen.

The Earl of Rosse's Observatory,
1876, May.

Note on the Conjunction of Venus and λ Geminorum on 1876,
August 17-18. By E. Dunkin, Esq.

Dr. Krüger, of Helsingfors, has drawn the attention of the Astronomer Royal to a very close approach of *Venus* to the star λ *Geminorum* on the morning of August 18 next, and he remarks that an opportunity will thus be afforded at the Northern and Southern observatories for making simultaneous micrometrical-measures of the distance between the planet and the star, the latter being, according to the *Uranometria Nova* of Argelander, of the 4-3 magnitude, and according to Heis, of the fourth magnitude. As a series of measures made in both hemispheres would be of some importance, it may be useful, for the convenience of observers, to insert in the *Monthly Notices* the tabular R.A. and N.P.D. of *Venus* for short intervals during the morning of August 18, and also the apparent place of λ *Geminorum* for the same day, deduced from the *Greenwich Seven-Year Catalogue* for 1864. Viewing this interesting conjunction as one of more than usual value, it is hoped that attempts will be made on this side the Atlantic to secure some micrometrical-measures, although the nearest approach occurs in Europe several hours after sunrise; but the star being of a fair magnitude, it is possible that at, or slightly before that time, it may be observable with some of our large telescopes. In North and South America, where the

nearest approach takes place before sunrise, measures may be made at the most favourable time without any difficulty.

The apparent R.A. and N.P.D. of λ Geminorum on August 18, are—

R.A.			N.P.D.		
h	m	s	°	'	"
7	10	59.30	73	14	8.17

The relative positions of *Venus* and the star may readily be found from the following interpolated hourly places of the planet, deduced from the daily places in the *Nautical Almanac*, and compared with the apparent R.A. and N.P.D. of the star given above :

Greenwich Mean Time, 1876.	R.A. of <i>Venus</i> , interpolated from <i>N.A.</i>			N.P.D. of <i>Venus</i> , interpolated from <i>N.A.</i>			R.A. of <i>Venus</i> — R.A. of Star.	N.P.D. of <i>Venus</i> . — N.P.D. of Star
d h	h m s	° ' "	s	' "				
Aug. 17 16	7 10 31.97	73 16 3.7	— 27.42	+ 1 55.5				
17	10 36.58	15 57.6	— 22.81	+ 1 49.4				
18	10 41.20	15 51.6	— 18.19	+ 1 43.4				
19	10 45.83	15 45.5	— 13.56	+ 1 37.3				
20	10 50.48	15 39.5	— 8.91	+ 1 31.3				
21	10 55.14	15 33.5	— 4.25	+ 1 25.3				
22	10 59.81	15 27.5	+ 0.42	+ 1 19.3				
17 23	11 4.49	15 21.5	+ 5.10	+ 1 13.3				
18 0	11 9.18	15 15.5	+ 9.79	+ 1 7.3				

The apparent semidiameter of *Venus* at the time of nearest approach on August 17, 22^h is 19".1.

It may be remarked that the nearest approach occurs half-an-hour before sunrise at Washington, *Venus* being about 27° above the horizon. At Santiago de Chile the planet will be about 12° above the horizon at this time, or nearly an hour-and-a-half before sunrise.

The favourable positions of observatories in America is, however, better shown by the numbers in the following table, which gives the local mean times of the conjunction of the planet and star in R.A. and of sunrise, together with the corresponding altitude of *Venus* for the Observatories of Ann Arbor, Washington, and Santiago de Chile :—

	Local M.T. of Conjunction.			Local M.T. of Sunrise.			Altitude of <i>Venus</i> .	
	d	h	m	d	h	m	°	'
Ann Arbor	Aug.	17	16	21	17	17	21	35
Washington	„	17	16	48	17	17	26	32
Santiago	„	17	17	13	17	18	12	5

Kidbrooke, Blackheath,
1876, May 6.